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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 11 May 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and, in reference to the candidature of the Syrian Arab Republic for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2011-2014 in the election to be held on 20 May 2011, during the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly, has the honour to inform the latter that, as a result of the comprehensive reforms currently taking place in Syria and the national reprioritizing policy regarding the candidatures of the Syrian Arab Republic for various bodies of the United Nations system, and having consulted and coordinated with the Kuwaiti Government, the Syrian Government has decided to exchange its candidature for the Human Rights Council for the term 2011-2014 with the Kuwaiti candidature for the same body for the term 2013-2016. Consequently, the Syrian candidature for the Council will be for the term 2013-2016 instead of the term 2011-2014.

The Asian Group, in its meeting held on 11 May 2011, agreed to exchange the candidature of Syria with the candidature of Kuwait for the Human Rights Council, and endorsed the candidature of Kuwait for the Council for the term 2011-2014.

The Syrian Arab Republic was actively involved in the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the formulation of its mandate, and thus it is fully committed to making a further and sustained contribution to the independent work of the Council aimed at immunizing the latter against any irresponsible attempts at politicization. It attaches particular importance to its candidature for membership in the Council owing to the significance that it sees in the enhancement of the constructive international cooperation in the field of the protection of human rights, especially through its membership in the Council. The voluntary pledges and commitments expressed by the Syrian Arab Republic in its note verbale dated 1 March 2011 (A/65/784) are still valid for its candidature for the Council for the term 2013-2016.

The Permanent Mission of Syria also has the honour to kindly request the assistance of the President of the General Assembly in having the present letter circulated as document of the Assembly, under agenda item 112 (c).